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REVIEWS.

Demosthenes and the Last Days of Greek Freedom, 384-322

B. C. By A. W. PICKARD-CAMBRIDGE. New York and London, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1914.—xxiii, 512 pp.

Fluctuations in our estimates of ancient political characters are undoubtedly due in part to the progress of research. To this cause must be added our love of innovation merely as a relief from the trite and the commonplace; for in our opinions of past customs, beliefs and men there are fads and fashions. In the case of various ancient individuals, however, we must seek the most powerful causative force in modern political developments. In such oscillations of judgment perhaps no person of antiquity has suffered so much as Demosthenes. In 1805 there was printed in Leipzig a translation of his public speeches with the express purpose of educating the German nation to resist the tyranny of Napoleon; and during the greater part of the nineteenth century the most eminent philologists and historians who have had occasion to treat of Demosthenes, including Grote, Schäfer, Curtius, Jebb and Blass, have uniformly represented him as an ideal patriot and a farsighted statesman. The growth of imperialism, however, brought a reaction against this favorable view. In the general histories of Greece the new thought first appears distinctly in Holm (1886), and is more strongly accentuated in the works of Beloch and Eduard Meyer, while in monographs it is sometimes carried to the extent of rabid denunciation, as in Kahrstedt, *Forschungen zur Geschichte des ausgehenden 5. und des 4. Jahrhunderts* (1910). Beginning in Germany, this movement has spread over the world. It includes an effort to whip the conservatives into line by a free use of such terms of disapprobation as "old-fashioned" and "antiquated."

When a new work on Demosthenes is announced, accordingly, we are curious as to its attitude toward the issue. The author of the present volume has examined his subject with remarkable thoroughness. He has made himself acquainted not only with the sources but also with the modern literature. Nothing so characterizes him as the calmness with which he treats of controversial subjects. Although he continually cites the recent assailants of Demosthenes, the reader can gain from him no intimation of the violence of the attack. On the other hand, the author is no advocate of the Athenian statesman. It would be pos-

sible to make out a fair case in favor of the early policy of Demosthenes, as represented for example by the Megalopolitan and Rhodian orations ; but Mr. Pickard-Cambridge decides that on the whole the proposals contained in these speeches were unwise. It is noteworthy, too, that the author frequently calls attention to mendacious statements of Demosthenes, sometimes preferring the authority of his political adversaries. He freely grants, further, that Demosthenes was sometimes unscrupulous in his political methods and that some of his personal traits were repellant. But in his judgment these defects were more than counterbalanced by the all-absorbing devotion to a great ideal.

Among recent and contemporary scholars, however, it has been the fashion, or perhaps we should say the political principle, to belittle this ideal, to stigmatize the city-state system of Hellas as contemptibly petty, and to announce the thesis that great things worthy of admiration were not set on foot till Philip conquered Greece and Alexander founded his Hellenic-Asiatic empire. In their opinion all who opposed this movement were either bleary-eyed patriots or unscrupulous demagogues. It could no more reasonably be demanded of Hellenic statesmen, however, that they should sacrifice their own city-states to a scheme of universal empire for the sake of peace and the extension of culture than it could now be demanded of European statesmen that they should surrender their national interests to a similar object. Mr. Pickard-Cambridge's work is by no means brilliant, but it enjoys the advantage of being sane and viewing the subject in its true historical perspective. Although not a great creative statesman, Demosthenes was at least faithful to the noblest traditions and aspirations of Hellas.

It will not be maintained that the conduct of Demosthenes was at all points admirable or blameless ; but since he represented worthily, throughout a most critical period, the highest traditions and instincts of his fellow-countrymen, and expressed them in a series of orations the eloquence of which was not only worthy of their theme, but at its best has never been surpassed, he is entitled to a distinguished place among those heroes of the nations, the memory of whom is among the noblest possessions of mankind.

One of the strongest points made against Demosthenes and his cause has been the assumption that his people were irredeemably decadent—no longer worthy of freedom or capable of self-government. An answer to this contention will be found in the chapter on "The Athenian State in the Fourth Century B. C." Here as elsewhere the author is moderate in judgment. While sufficiently emphasizing—perhaps over-emphasizing—the defects of the political system, he is far from consider-

ing the people hopelessly decadent. The fact is that it was a period of experimentation, especially in socialistic directions, partly due to the new and trying conditions occasioned by impoverishment in the Peloponnesian War and by the loss of empire. It is too much to assume that the Athenians were incapable of learning by experience.

We may hope that this volume is an indication of a drift toward a sounder view of Demosthenes and what he represented, and that the time is near at hand when an appreciation of Alexander's empire as a factor in the universalization of Hellenic culture will not involve a denunciation of the manner of life which created that culture. Perhaps the present experiences of Europe will help scholars to a more liberal view of non-imperialistic systems of political organization.

GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD.

The Life of Lyman Trumbull. By HORACE WHITE. New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.—xxxv, 458 pp.

This book is especially interesting because the author was either an observer of most of the events which he narrates or a participant in them. He was intimate with Trumbull during the greater part of the latter's political career, sympathized with his aims, and possessed high admiration for his character and ability. For these reasons, Mr. White decided to undertake the work of placing the name of Trumbull in that "swelling flood of biographical literature that embraces the Civil War period" (page v).

The important part of Trumbull's political career began in 1854 when he was elected to the Senate by a coalition of Republicans and Anti-Nebraska Democrats in the Illinois legislature. Until then Trumbull had been a Democrat, but the repeal of the Missouri Compromise had caused him to desert that party and for the next eighteen years he affiliated with the Republicans. However, Trumbull was by nature a conservative in speech and action, and though he possessed deep convictions in regard to the evil of slavery, he was never so violent in his opposition to the institution as were most of his colleagues in the new party. But when Lincoln was elected president and the southern states began to use that fact as an excuse for seceding, Trumbull was one of those members of his party who opposed any further compromise with the slave power.

One of the unique features of this book is Mr. White's habit of commenting freely on his own contemporary opinion of an event or a condition and of passing a present mature judgment on his own former